

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of April 19, 2006, Applicants have amended the claims, which when considered with the following remarks, is deemed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The amendments to the claims have been made in the interest of expediting prosecution of this case. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar subject matter in this or another application.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice, Claims 3-7 and 13 have been amended to depend from Claim 15 and new Claims 36-56 have been added. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more applications based on the cancelled subject matter. Accordingly, amended Claims 3-13, 15-18 and new Claims 36-56 are now pending in this application. Support for new Claims 36-56 can be found throughout the specification, e.g., page 12 (Claims 42, 49 and 56), page 18 (Claims 36-39, 44-47 and 51-54), and page 25 (Claims 40, 41, 48 and 55).

The Examiner has allowed Claims 8-12 over the prior art of record. By this Amendment, new Claims 43-49 have been added to depend from allowed independent Claim 8. Accordingly, new Claims 43-49 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowed independent Claim 8, and immediate allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. Likewise, new Claims 50-56 have been added to depend from allowed independent Claim 11. Accordingly, new Claims 50-56 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowed independent Claim 11, and immediate allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been

added to the subject invention nor have any new issues been raised by these amendments.

Accordingly, entry and consideration of the present Amendment is deemed appropriate as it places the application in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 15-18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 15 has now been amended into independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 3-7 and 13 have been amended to now depend from independent amended Claim 15. Thus, amended Claims 3-7 and 13 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 15 and immediate allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. Also, new Claims 36-42 have been added to depend from independent amended Claim 15. Thus, new Claims 36-42 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 15 and immediate allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected original Claims 1-7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Carrick et al. U.S. Publication No. 2002/0147116 ("Carrick et al."). While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner, Claims 1, 2 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice and Claims 3-7 and 13 have been amended to depend from amended independent Claim 15, which has been indicated as allowable, to expedite prosecution of this application. Thus, this rejection is deemed moot.

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Amdt. dated July 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated April 19, 2006

For the foregoing reasons, amended Claims 3-13 and 15-18 and new Claims 36-56 as presented herein are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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